



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 08 2010

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Ms. Amy K. Liebman
Director of Environmental and Occupational Health
Migrant Clinicians Network
Post Office Box 164285
Austin, Texas 78716

Dear Ms. Liebman:

Thank you for your letter of December 15, 2009. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns. Like you and your colleagues, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes the need to provide pesticide workers and handlers with the information they need to protect their health and safety in a clear and understandable manner. Environmental justice is a top priority for the Agency, and we are actively pursuing ways to ensure that everyone is afforded equal protection from the risks associated with pesticide exposure.

EPA currently is engaged in several significant activities to offer better protection to pesticide applicators, farmworkers, and their families. To reduce the risk of exposure to pesticides through spray and dust drift, the Agency has proposed comprehensive new guidance for pesticide labeling. We are requesting comment on this proposed labeling guidance until March 5, 2010. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/spraydrift.htm>. Additionally, EPA has developed and is seeking comment on revised risk assessment methods for workers, children of workers in agricultural fields, and pesticides with no food uses. Through these improved methods, the Agency is striving to establish more comprehensive and consistent evaluation techniques to assess the risks associated with pesticide exposure. To learn more about this action, see <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/worker-rsk-assmnt.html>.

For over two decades, EPA has allowed the marketing of pesticide products with bilingual labeling to better protect public health and the environment. As discussed in 40 CFR 156.10(a)(3) and a series of Pesticide Registration Notices (PR 88-06, PR 95-2, and PR 98-10), the registrant is responsible for the accurate translation of the English text and must ensure that both language versions of the labeling appear on the pesticide container. To further this bilingual

initiative, we plan to seek comment in the near future on the proposal in your letter to require pesticide manufacturers selling products in the United States to offer Spanish-language labels. The Agency will publish a Federal Register notice and open a docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> to obtain public input on this issue.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel contact Ms. Katie Weyrauch at (703) 308-0166.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra Edwards", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Debra Edwards, Ph.D., Director
Office of Pesticide Programs